

A BUSINESS BAROMETER

Prices of Commodities and an Index to the Conditions Existing in the Markets

TRADE OUTLOOK WITH CUBA DISCOURAGING

Wealthy Spaniards Still in Control of Business—No Cash Transactions—Cotton Oil Firm.

Office of The Post.

Houston, Wednesday, April 12.—When the peace protocol was signed it was expected that a good export trade with Cuba would be built up. Texans naturally thought they would receive immediate benefits. A new gold was to be opened up for cattle, lumber, poultry, eggs, etc., and capital would develop in the island, necessitating the employment of thousands of idle men.

It appears, however, that all dreams of easy money in Cuba have come to naught. The importing business is still in the hands of the wealthy Spaniards who understand the language and customs of the natives, and therefore continue in control of the insular trade. These men are well known in the markets of the world and purchase on sixty days' to six months' time. Cash transactions are almost unknown, so that Americans are at a disadvantage.

Nearly every plantation is heavily mortgaged, so that the owners can not contract for improvements except by consent of the money lenders, so that taken all in all the prospects for trade with Cuba are decidedly gloomy. It will be two or three years before Texas can hope to find conditions in Cuba favorable for pushing trade. By that time foreign capital and immigration will probably have wrought considerable change.

COTTON SEED OIL.

The Williams & Flax company say in their circular of April 8, that the movement of strength noted in our last became more apparent this week, and several round lots of good oil yellow changed hands at \$16.00 per lb. here with that price obtainable at the close for any important lots. Prime oils both refined and crude, continue dull, with very little inquiry or demand for same, and this condition is likely to prevail for some time to come. The market remains at current prices, and the present dull condition, unless changed by manipulation. The stocks of cotton and oilseeds, however, are far from large, and will hold.

The European markets still hold back from buying, but with the stock of oil in tails accounts concentrated in stock hands, this is not the case, and it would be difficult to get them started, and the offerings free, and it is only a question of time before they will be forced to replenish their stocks here. It must be remembered, however, that we have kept track of the shipments, and the fact that Europe has been able to hold off as long as she has, but when it is considered that up to February 1, cotton barrels had been shipped to Europe, it is evident that heretofore the market has not been to be worried.

The market closes steady, but somewhat dull, although the "powers" that be stand ready to take any important lot that seems to deserve it, and to buy it at higher prices, for safe storage. Special quotations are as follows:

PRODUCE.

BEANS—Navy 30¢/lb.; Navy Ale, 35¢/lb.; dried 25¢/lb.; pink 35¢/lb.; Lima, 35¢/lb.; green 35¢/lb.

LICHTER—Blue Star, 20c; dairy 17¢/lb.; green 25¢/lb.; solid 12¢/lb.; prints 12¢/lb.

GARLIC—White, 12¢/lb.; country 10¢/lb.

CHEESE—New York full cream 14¢/lb.; Wisconsin full cream 14¢/lb.; Young American 12¢/lb.; Swiss 12¢/lb.; fancy rolls 12¢/lb.

CABBAGE—35¢/lb. per lb.

PEPPER—Chile 12¢/lb. per lb.; black Singapure 10¢/lb.

POTATOES—Eating, 6¢/lb.; 10¢/lb. bushel.

EGGS—New York, 9¢/dozen per dozen.

KRAUT—25¢/lb. in half hams.

LIMA BEANS—Per lb., 25¢/lb.

WHEAT—Louisiana, 25¢/lb.; Texas, 25¢/lb.; 28¢/lb.

SALT FISH—Market, No. 1, 10¢/lb.; kites, 12¢/lb.; half kites, 10¢/lb.

SARDINES—Standard grade, pearl in oil, 12¢/lb.; choice 12¢/lb.; fancy 14¢/lb.

MUSTARD—Three-quarters, 12¢/lb.; imported, 14¢/lb.; fancy, 15¢/lb.

HONEY—In 10-lb. cans, extracted, 35¢/lb.; in comb., 30¢/lb.; in 10-lb. cans, extracted, 35¢/lb.

DRY FRUITS AND NUTS.

APPLES—Fan 1, evaporated, 50¢/lb. boxes 14-lbs.; standard 10¢/lb.; choice evaporated, in 14-lb. boxes, 12¢/lb.; fancy, 15¢/lb.

ORANGES—10-lb. boxes, 12¢.

CUBRANTS—in boxes 10-lb. boxes, clean, bulk, 7¢/lb.; 10-lb. cartons 8¢.

PEACHES—Evaporated, unpreserved, 10¢/lb.

PINEAPPLE—Fresh, 10-lb. boxes, 12¢/lb.

RAISINS—10-lb. boxes, 5¢; 12-lb. boxes, 6¢.

PUMPKIN—50-lb. boxes, 6¢; 60-lb. boxes, 7¢.

NUTS—Brazil nut, 12¢/lb.; peanuts 12¢/lb.; macadamia nuts, 12¢/lb.; pistachio nuts, 15¢/lb.; pecans 12¢/lb.; walnuts 12¢/lb.

LIMA BEANS—Halved, 12¢/lb.

CHOCOLATE—10-lb. boxes, 12¢/lb.; 15-lb. boxes, 15¢/lb.; 20-lb. boxes, 18¢/lb.

GRAIN AND HAY.

Carload lots, 10-lb. bags from millers; dealers charge from stores 5¢/lb. more per 100 lb. bran; 25¢/lb. per bushel on oats and corn, and 30¢/lb. per bushel on wheat.

BRAN—Per 100 lbs., 6¢; corn bran 6¢/lb.

CHOPPED CORN—Per 100 lbs., 7¢.

CORN—No. 2, sacked, 4¢/lb. per bushel.

DAIRY PRODUCTS—Per 100 lbs., 12¢.

SOYBEAN—50-lb. bushel, 6¢.

WHITENING SHOTTS—Per 100 lbs., 10¢.

HAY—Arlaids, 35¢/lb.; 60¢/lb. to 70¢/lb.

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GREEN BEANS—Per 100 lbs., 10¢.

SUGAR—Per 100 lbs., 12¢/lb.

FRUIT—Bananas, 10¢/lb.; packed, 12¢/lb.

COCONUTS—Per hundred \$3.00.

LEMONS—2¢/lb.; 3¢/lb.

LIME—Per 100 lbs., 12¢/lb.

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